

Electronic Mail Message

Date: 06-Feb-1997 08:35am
From: Robert Wolters
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TO: See Below
Subject: Levmetamfetamine

The USAN Council at its January 27, 1997 meeting considered your memo regarding the name levmetamfetamine and voted to retain the name for the following reasons.

1. USAN's guiding principles state that "...if a name is needed for a different enantiomer or for the racemic form the following prefixes should be added rac/race, levo/lev or dex/dextro...." Since this is an enantiomer of metamfetamine "lev" was chosen as the prefix. Even if we were to rescind levmetamfetamine, we would have to rename l-desoxyephedine levdesoxyephedine with a few spelling changes to satisfy the international requirements.

in addition USP will be using levmetamfetamine in the monograph for this drug stance.

2. If we chose another name, the name would only apply in the US. The rest of the world still use levmetamfetamine, which is also the reason for the "f" instead of the "ph". So, if this product were marketed outside the US, the manufacturer would have to use the name levmetamfetamine internationally.

3. We agree with you that there is abuse potential as stated in your memo and there will be misuse of the drug. But that already has occurred. This product has been around for over 40 years, and it has been abused for most of those years. Therefore, it was felt that the name levmetamfetamine would not add to the abuse potential as those who already abuse it will continue to abuse it. Also the grape vine for disseminating abuse drugs among the drug abusers will insure that this product, whether it goes by the name levmetamfetamine or l-desoxyephedrine, will be abused.

in the future, it is determined that levmetamfetamine requires restriction use of abuse, then it would be much better to have only one name worldwide so there would not be any confusion of what levmetamfetamine is in the US.

4. Your argument that the name levmetamfetamine will lead to similar abuse that has occurred with ephedrine is not valid as the current name l-desoxyephedrine contains ephedrine and therefore has even a stronger association to ephedrine than levmetamfetamine.

The 1993 edition of Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control by the United Nations in New York published levmetamfetamine as the official international name. The name as published in the above dictionary will then become the INN name. USAN has yet to publish the name. However, the USP published in the July-August 1996 Pharmacopeial Forum the name l-desoxyephedrine for the monograph. As a result of this publication, USAN Council received two objections, one from the British Pharmacopoeia Commission and the second from WHO.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, levmetamfetamine by any other name would still have the same abuse potential as levmetamfetamine.

istribution:

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